

SCOPUS

THE DISTRIBUTION OF, AND OTHER NOTES ON, SOME BIRDS OF TANZANIA

N.R. Fuggles-Couchman

The publication of *Birds of East Africa* (Britton 1980) was a most important event in East African ornithology. As Britton remarked in the preface of the book, East African ornithology, and the few ornithologists then working in East Africa, would have benefited greatly from such a work in the 1950s. But the work of the much larger number of ornithologists active in the field in the sixties and seventies would have made essential the publication of a new and up-to-date work, such as we now have, although no doubt the labour involved would have been greatly reduced.

Because of the immensity of the task facing the authors of *Birds of East Africa*, and because of the uneven scatter of ornithologists in East Africa, and particularly in the past in Tanzania, it was inevitable that the range given of many species would be incomplete, or ill-defined, as is the case with many Tanzanian birds. In part this is due to a lack of diligence in the publication of records by the present author and others, but in part it would seem to be due to an oversight of certain published work.

It is hoped that the publication of the following notes will help make the information given in *Birds of East Africa* for Tanzania rather more complete, but it is appreciated that many of the notes could be considered as of only historic interest. However, some may give incentive to someone to check the present position in the field while others will serve as a record of an earlier presence of species no longer found in the area because of habitat destruction by man, climatic changes, or other factors.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

The nomenclature and order of families and species used in Britton (1980) have been followed in this paper. Numbers in brackets following reference to specimens are identification numbers of skins deposited at the British Museum (Natural History).

Ixobrychus sturmi Dwarf Bittern

In view of the dates given for this species, it is worth recording its presence in Dar es Salaam District as late as August in 1953, and a young bird in the same area in May 1956.

Ardea cinerea Grey Heron

While agreeing with the general statement in Britton (1980) that this species is usually solitary and never numerous, I did find a flock of 100 birds perched in low shrubs along the stream entering Lake Basuto, Mbulu District, in November 1960.

Ardea melanocephala Black-headed Heron

A large colony of this species was found nesting in May 1959 in the tops of partially submerged *Acacia tortilis* in Hombolo Dam, Dodoma District only one year after that very large dam had filled. The heronry was among considerable numbers of nesting Cattle Egrets *Bulbulcus ibis*, Long-tailed Cormorants *Phalacrocorax africanus*, Darters *Anhinga rufa* and Yellow-billed Storks *Mycteria ibis*.

Egretta ardesiaca Black Heron

In addition to its more typical habitat of lakes and coastal creeks, this species was to be found on such large rivers as the Kilombero. Several flocks of 20-40 birds were present along the River Mnyera (the upper waters of the Kilombero) in September 1934. It was also recorded in small numbers of from one to four birds in irrigated rice at Kilingali, Kilosa District, in April 1952.

Egretta intermedia Yellow-billed Egret

Britton (1980) suggests that this species is seldom found in littoral habitats and that it is seldom numerous. In Dar es Salaam it was, and still is (Howell in MS), regularly to be seen flighting in the evening across the entrance channel to the harbour, often in considerable numbers, together with flocks of Cattle Egrets *Bulbulcus ibis*, heading for the mangroves to roost.

Gorsachius leuconotus White-backed Night Heron

To the few localities listed by Britton (1980) should be added the Mangola Springs, Mbulu District, where a bird was found in January 1960. The Mangola Springs were surrounded by riverine forest and heavy vegetation, the typical habitat of this species.

Ciconia abdimii Abdim's Stork

This species occurred intermittently in the Eastern Province, especially in years of locust invasions. In 1932 considerable flocks were present in Morogoro and Kilosa Districts among flying swarms, and in January to March 1933 they were in large flocks in Kilosa District where, after destroying quantities of adult locusts, they hunted out bands of hoppers, often destroying them completely. In February 1937 small numbers occurred on the old Dar es Salaam airport.

In the Northern Province flocks were present in scattered tree-grassland near Monduli in February 1943, and in arable fields near Arusha. In February 1946 large flocks were on the Argai Plains and at Mbulumbulu, while in 1959 enormous flocks were present near Meserani Dam in a year of heavy army worm *Spodoptera exempta* infestation, when the storks played a major part in their control.

Mycteria ibis Yellow-billed Stork

This species was nesting in small numbers on the edges of large colonies of other water birds at Hombolo Dam in May 1959 (see Black-headed Heron above). In August of the same year several hundred of this species were present on the western side of Lake Manyara, on rushy mud banks running out into shallow water.

Threskiornis aethiopica Sacred Ibis

Another species that was nesting, in small numbers, in the partially submerged

Acacia tortilis in Hombolo Dam in mid May 1959, when there were young in the nests. The trees were shared with Darters *Anhinga rufa*, which outnumbered the ibises.

Dendrocygna bicolor Fulvous Whistling Duck

After the very heavy short rains in November and December 1961, Eluanata Dam, to the east of Monduli, filled fully for the first time for some years. This, and the following species of ducks, were all nesting on the dam in January and February 1962. Two nests of this species were found on 26 February, one with eight eggs, just on the point of hatching. Eggs measured were slightly larger than the size given in Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957), at 55 x 43 mm.

Anas erythrorhynchos Red-billed Teal

One nest found on 26 February at Eluanata Dam contained eight eggs.

Anas penelope Wigeon

There is a published record for this species from south and west of Arusha National Park, the southern limit given by Britton (1980): at Meserani Dam in Masailand, south of Monduli. Believed then to have been the first record for Tanganyika, up to 25 Wigeon were seen by Elliott on the dam from 2 February to 7 March 1943 (Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott 1946).

Netta erythrophthalma Southern Pochard

Two nests at Eluanata Dam, each with three eggs measuring 59 x 45 mm, were found on 26 February 1962.

Oxyura maccoa Maccoa Duck

Three nests were found on 21 February 1962 at Eluanata Dam with one, six and eight eggs. Three eggs averaged 64 x 52 mm.

Several hundred of this species were found on Lake Embagai, Crater Highlands, in January 1945 (Elliott & Fuggles-Couchman 1948), and it has been reported from near Singida.

Sarkidiornis melanotos Knob-billed Duck

In view of the few dated nesting records for Tanzania, it is worth noting a female (containing a fully developed egg with shell) shot on 2 November 1952 at Kilingali, Kilosa District.

This species occurred in flocks of up to 200, and frequently of over 100, in the War Wheat Scheme wheat fields on the Ardai Plains in May 1944, and in April 1959 large flocks were seen in wheat fields at Ol Molog, on the northwestern slopes of Mt Kilimanjaro.

Thalassornis leuconotus White-backed Duck

This was the commonest duck nesting on Eluanata Dam in 1962 when 15 nests were found between 7 January and 26 February. Most of the later nests contained from 8 to 13 eggs, those measured averaging 62.5 x 49 mm. Almost without exception the nests had a dense hood of grass or rushes constructed over them. In mid October 1958 there were a number of White-backed Ducks on a partially filled Eluanata Dam with a considerable number of ducklings up to about one month old.

Gyps africanus African White-backed Vulture

Nests with young have been recorded in August 1958 in *Acacia xanthophloea* in Ngorongoro Crater, and in June 1944 in a large *Acacia tortilis* on the western edge of the Ardai Plains, Masailand. An adult was at the first nest, apparently shading a nestling. The second nest contained one chick.

Circus ranivorus African Marsh Harrier

A female was seen carrying nesting material on 31 January 1952 at Kilingali Swamps, Kilosa District.

Circaetus fasciolatus Southern Banded Snake Eagle

In addition to the inland localities given by Britton (1980) this species was recorded in August 1938 in the Nguru Mountains, Morogoro District, at 1600 m, in forest on the southern side of the pass to Maskati.

Accipiter minullus Little Sparrowhawk

In view of the local nature of the distribution of this uncommon hawk, it is worth noting its occurrence in *Balanites*-scattered tree grassland west of Monduli at 1400 m, in November 1942 and at Mbulumbulu in June 1945, at 1750 m, in scattered *Acacia tortilis* in mainly open grassland.

Accipiter ovampensis Ovampo Sparrowhawk

I have only one record of this rare hawk in thirty-two years in Tanzania. A bird was stooping at small passerines near a well at Nondwa, Dodoma District, in March 1957. The Nondwa area is typical Central Province dry thorn country, dominated by *Acacia tortilis*. After stooping, the hawk circled several times overhead, gaining height, and providing excellent views of the plumage.

Accipiter rufiventris Rufous Sparrowhawk

The only records given for this species in Tanzania by Britton (1980) are from Arusha and Songea. It has also been found in Nainokanoka, Crater Highlands over *Crotolaria* scrub at the edge of vestigial forest, in January 1945, and another was watched hawking a weaver on the edge of Lake Manyara, near the forest area, in August 1959.

Aquila pomarina Lesser Spotted Eagle

A considerable concourse of at least 200 of this eagle was seen some 65 km southwest of Arusha, on the Great North Road, on 30 November 1961. The eagles were coming in from the south, and may have been wintering birds on local movement. They were flying at various heights, a few at considerable height, and were landing in open grassland with scattered trees and bush, in the lower foothills of Burko Mountain, only a short distance from the road, providing an excellent opportunity to study the plumage in some detail.

Aquila verreauxi Verreaux's Eagle

In addition to the five localities where this species has been recorded by Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott (1946), ranging from Samunge in northern Masailand to Mt Lenjogi in the south of that district, it was also seen on the rift wall above Engaruka, in January 1945.

Buteo buteo Common Buzzard

This species was numerous at Mbulumbulu on 1 March 1946, resting in large bare trees, providing another record of this buzzard's movement up the rift valley on northern migration.

Buteo tachardus Mountain Buzzard

The most westerly locality given by Britton (1980) for this species is north-eastern Tanzania is Arusha National Park. In fact there are published records well to the west of Arusha, in the Crater Highlands (Elliott & Fuggles-Couchman 1948), and on Mt Hanang (Fuggles-Couchman 1953). It has also been recorded from Monduli Mountain in November 1942.

Aviceda cuculoides Cuckoo Hawk

In addition to the published records of Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott (1946), one of which is for the late date of 30 January, from Ngayage 100 km north of Kilosa, there is another published record (Elliott & Fuggles-Couchman 1948) from Lengopiron, Crater Highlands, also in January. I have also seen the Cuckoo Hawk in December in Arusha. These records are of particular interest because of their dates, compared with those given by Britton (1980) for records from Tanzania.

Falco amurensis Eastern Red-footed Falcon

In view of only three January records for Tanzania given by Britton (1980), it is worth noting a specimen, a male (46/2) collected at Ol Molog, on the north-western slopes of Mt Kilimanjaro at 1650 m on 21 January 1946. It was one of three of this species seen together on that occasion.

Falco biarmicus Lanner Falcon

No specific localities are quoted by Britton (1980) for this uncommon falcon in Tanzania, and it is worth drawing attention to its presence in the Ngamat area of the Crater Highlands in February 1946 at 2000 m. I also have records of single birds at Ol Molog in April 1959 in open arable and grasslands, and at Mbulumbulu in April 1946 in similar habitat, at 1650 m.

Falco concolor Sooty Falcon

Britton (1980) mentions the lack of dated records of the movements of this species in East Africa. It is therefore worth noting the occurrence of small numbers of Sooty Falcons among large numbers of (presumably) Palaearctic Kestrels *Falco tinnunculus* which were moving eastwards over Mbulumbulu, Crater Highlands, on 7 December 1943. I also have a record of a single bird on 10 April 1957 between Songea and the Matengo Hills, southwestern Tanzania.

Falco dickensoni Dickenson's Kestrel

This species ranges west of Morogoro to Kilosa District. It was seen in considerable numbers near Kilosa in April 1937, where it was hawking adult locusts over cultivations with scattered *Kigelia* trees, in which the birds frequently perched. It has also been recorded in *Brachystegia* woodland in the Mikumi area, 70 km south of Kilosa, in December 1951, and during the same year it was frequent at Kilingali, in the more open areas in *Combretum* bushland, particularly round the edges of the large swamp where there were a few trees.

Falco tinnunculus Kestrel

Considerable numbers of, presumably, the nominate race were seen over Mbulumbulu on 7 December 1943, moving eastwards in company with a small number of Sooty Falcons. Large numbers have also been recorded from the Ngare Ol Motonyi area near Arusha when on northward passage on 19 February 1943.

Polihierax semitorquatus Pygmy Falcon

This species ranges well to the east of the range given by Britton (1980) in Tanzania. A pair was seen mating on 24 June 1942 at Ngulu, at the southern foot of the North Pare Mountains, in dry thornbush. A single bird, no doubt a wanderer, was also seen in *Combretum* bush near the River Kilombero in August 1953, south of the Ifakara ferry.

Coturnix chinensis Blue Quail

In view of the few October records quoted by Britton (1980), all from Kenya, attention should be drawn to a record from Mbulumbulu on 10 October 1942, in *Themeda* grassland (Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott 1946).

Francolinus sephaena Crested Francolin

Britton (1980) gives the range of the race *grantii* as south to Dodoma. It should be extended eastwards from there to include northern Kilosa District at Geiro, where a male (42/18) was collected in 1942. This species also occurred at Ngulu, Same District, presumably attributable to the same race.

Francolinus squamatus Scaly Francolin

The range of this species extends east from the Arusha National Park (the eastern limit given by Britton (1980)) to the western slopes of Mt Kilimanjaro, where it was found in fringing bush along the Ngare Nairobi North River at 1790 m.

Acryllium vulturinum Vulturine Guineafowl

Britton (1980) gives the range of this species in Tanzania as east of Mt Kili-manjaro to Mombo. It was also to be found well to the southwest of Kiliman-jaro in the semi-arid plains 48 km south of Arusha. A covey of young birds, just able to fly, was seen with adults on 22 June 1954.

Guttera pucherani Kenya Crested Guineafowl

In 1943 this species occurred in the forest above Mbulumbulu, Crater High-lands, at 1850 m, and north of Lake Manyara, a locality which does not appear to be included in the range given by Britton (1980). I also came across it on several occasions in the Pugu forest, inland from Dar es Salaam, in 1935 and 1955.

Crex egregia African Crake

This species was frequent in the swampy grasslands at Kilingali, Kilosa Dis-trict, between February and the end of May 1952. A male (52/3) collected on 20 February 1952 had enlarged gonads. An October 1958 record from Boma la Ngombe, near Moshi, is also worth noting in relation to dates given by Britton (1980). I have also a record from the Serengeti in June 1962.

Gallinula chloropus Common Moorhen

In view of the local occurrence of this species it is worth noting its pres-ence in northeastern Tanzania at Mbulumbulu in 1942; Lake Tlawi, Mbulu Dis-trict in 1943; Eluanata Dam and Boma la Ngombe in 1958. It was nesting on Eluanata Dam on 1 January 1962 when two nests had incomplete clutches of two and three eggs.

Porphyrio alleni Allen's Gallinule

In view of the apparent paucity of records for this species in interior Tan-zania (Britton 1980) it is worth noting its presence on a small lake 25 km south of Kilosa in June 1932, when one was found alive in a native trap on the edge of the lake, and released. Another was seen at Eluanata Dam in October 1958.

Porphyrio porphyrio Purple Gallinule

The Purple Gallinule was found in northeastern Tanzania on Lakes Tlawi and Basuto, Mbulu District, in September 1943 and November 1960; at the fresh water lake in Ngorongoro in August 1958; at Boma la Ngombe and on Eluanata Dam in October 1957 and January 1962. Several nests were found on Eluanata in 1962 between 1 and 7 January. Most nests contained four eggs and by 21 February, when coots and ducks still had eggs, no gallinule nests were found with eggs.

This species tended to nest in deeper water than the Red-knobbed Coots *Ful-ica cristata*, and while the latter favoured isolated clumps of rush, the gallinules' nests were mostly just inside denser patches of vegetation. A series of six eggs measured averaged 52.5 x 37.5 mm.

Rallus caerulescens African Water Rail

To the few localities given by Britton (1980) for this species in Tanzania should be added Itigi, on the Central Railway, where it was watched on the large ponds near the station in May 1956.

Fulica cristata Red-knobbed Coot

Britton (1980) remarks that temporal patterns of occurrence are poorly doc-umented, so that the following observations may be of some interest if read in conjunction with other information.

On 12 September 1943 there appeared to be a thousand or more on Lake Tlawi, and on Lake Basuto they were very numerous in November 1960. In the same year they were numerous on the freshwater lake in Ngorongoro Crater on 3 Aug-

ust. On 13 October 1958 coots were numerous at Eluanata Dam, which also held a moderate population in January and February 1962, when the birds were breeding there. Lake Duluti, near Arusha, held many birds in March 1945.

In contrast with these records, the freshwater areas of Lake Embagai, Crater Highlands, held only one bird in January 1945, and at the salt pans in the Ngare Nanyuki area between Mt Kilimanjaro and Mt Meru, I could find only one pair in each of the two years, in May and December.

Podica senegalensis African Finfoot

In addition to its occurrence at Miwalleni Springs, east of Moshi and in the lowlands below Kilimanjaro, H.F.I. Elliott (pers. comm.) found the Finfoot frequent in the Kikuletwa River in the Sanya Plains in 1943, an environment now largely wrecked by the construction of Kilimanjaro International Airport.

Eupodotis melanogaster Black-bellied Bustard

This species was a scarce resident in the lower areas of wooded grassland at Mbulumbulu at 1600 m in 1942, and was also to be found in the rift valley north of Lake Manyara in 1945.

Eupodotis ruficrista Buff-crested Bustard

This species occurred at Engaruka, well to the west of the range suggested by Britton (1980) in Tanzania. H.F.I. Elliott and I found it in close association with the previous species, with no apparent difference in choice of habitat, in 1945.

Eupodotis senegalensis White-bellied Bustard

In 1942 the White-bellied Bustard occurred to the southeast of Kilimanjaro in Same District, in the open grassland and scattered *Acacia tortilis* area to the north of Same, and thus somewhat south of the range suggested by Britton (1980) for northeastern Tanzania. It was also a scarce resident in the rift valley near Engaruka.

Rostratula benghalensis Painted Snipe

An extremely elusive bird in east and northeastern Tanzania. A pair was seen in flooded grassland at Kilingali in May 1952, and a nest with four eggs was found at Lake Manyara in August 1959.

Charadrius asiaticus Caspian Plover

Though not numerous, this species occurred at Dar es Salaam fairly regularly, both in the town on the Gymkhana Club sports fields, and scattered in open areas to the north of the town. My records are all for September in the years 1955 to 1958.

Pluvialis squatarola Grey Plover

I have one unusually early record of a flock of c. 100 at the edge of Msasani salt lake, Dar es Salaam, on 6 August 1955. Otherwise all records fall within the period September to May given by Britton (1980), up to 19 May in 1956.

Vanellus crassirostris Long-toed Plover

In Tanzania this species occurs rather further to the east than suggested by Britton (1980). It was found in the main swamp area at Kilingali, in small numbers in December and January 1951/52.

Vanellus lugubris Senegal Plover

Although the majority of my records for this species from Dar es Salaam and Mafia Island fall in the period May to August, with the latest date 17 August at Dar es Salaam, I also have two unusual records, one of birds heard calling in flight over Dar es Salaam in February 1956, the other of their presence at Msasani in November 1956. They were also common in burnt wooded grassland at Kingolwira, Morogoro District, in November to December 1938.

Vanellus senegallus Wattled Plover

To the range given by Britton (1980) should be added the River Ruaha on the southern boundary of Kilosa District, a locality lying rather to the east of the general range given by him. The species was present there in August 1932.

Actitis hypoleucos Common Sandpiper

In addition to the main habitats in littoral and wetland localities, the Common Sandpiper was frequently found overwintering, usually solitarily, on rocky mountain rivers in the Northern Province. It favoured the River Weru-weru above above Lyamungu, in the southern foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, at 1500 m, and the River Themí above Arusha in February. One bird was found by the stream in Ol Moti Crater at the end of January. In September a solitary bird was present near the wheat fields on the Ardai Plains for a week, and in April another was found at the edge of a new dam on the Ardai. This species was also frequently to be seen on the rocky rivers of the Uluguru Mountains, especially on the River Mgeta in the west.

Tringa stagnatilis Marsh Sandpiper

Two birds were present at the salt pans on the Arusha - Ngare Nairobi road on the late date of 20 May 1945.

Tringa totanus Redshank

The only locality in the Northern Province where I found this species at all numerous was in the Maji ya Moto area on the west side of Lake Manyara in November 1958 when there were c. 50 birds. Other localities where one to five birds have been seen include the salt pans on the Arusha - Ngare Nairobi road in December 1942; a newly filled small dam on the Ardai Plains, where three birds remained for nearly a month in March - April 1946, and five in flooded grassland at Kilingali in April 1952.

Xenus cinereus Terek Sandpiper

Britton (1980) mentions records of single birds from many inland sites mainly on passage, September to November. A male collected by Elliott at Meserani Dam, Masailand, in February 1942 may therefore be of interest (Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott 1946).

Gallinago nigripennis African Snipe

No localities are mentioned for this species in northeastern Tanzania by Britton (1980). I found it at 1300 m at the salt pans on the Arusha - Ngare Nairobi road and on the Ardai at a similar altitude, in December and May between the years 1942 and 1944, and several birds were flushed along the stream in Ol Moti Crater at 2800 m in January 1952.

Himantopus himantopus Black-winged Stilt

The largest concentration of this species I ever found in northeastern Tanzania was at the salt pans on the Arusha - Ngare Nairobi road where I estimated that there were up to 1000 birds on 9 March 1945. That locality seemed to be particularly attractive to the Black-winged Stilt, for in December 1942 they were extremely numerous there, although in smaller numbers than those in 1945. In May 1946 only some 20 birds were found. Lake Babati was another locality where large numbers were seen in November 1959 while Eluanata Dam and Meserani Dam held one or two birds in June 1946.

Further south it occurred in small numbers along the River Kilombero in September 1932 and at Lake Gombo, Kilosa District, in October 1934.

Recurvirostra avosetta Avocet

In addition to the breeding localities cited by Britton (1980) in Tanzania, I have also recorded three birds at Lake Tlawi in September 1943, and a pair at the salt pans, Arusha - Ngare Nairobi road, in March 1945. Britton mentions

breeding at Ngare Nairobi and that is probably the same locality to which I refer. The salt pans used to be known as the Ngare Nanyuki salt pans, to which settlement they were probably nearer than Ngare Nairobi.

Dromas ardeola Crab Plover

Britton (1980) speaks of flocks of hundreds wintering in the Dar es Salaam area. I have only two records of more than seven birds together at Dar in the 1930s and 1950s, and I never considered this species as particularly common there. Both records were made in early May when 'large' flocks (probably 50 to 100 birds) were seen at high tide on the shore at Mjimwema. There would appear to have been a notable increase in population in the past 30 years.

Burhinus capensis Spotted Thicknee

Britton (1980) mentions no specific localities for this species in Tanzania. Between 1938 and 1942 I have recorded it at Kibedya, in northern Kilosa District; at Ngare Nairobi and at the western end of the Ardai Plains, all localities in low rainfall areas.

Burhinus vermiculatus Water Thicknee

This species was well distributed along the River Kilombero from Ifakara to Malinyi in 1932.

Rhinoptilus africanus Two-banded Courser

I have records of this courser from localities somewhat east of the range given by Britton (1980) for Tanzania. They are at Kongwa, to the east of Dodoma in December 1947, and at Kileo, at the northern foot of the North Pare Mountains, some 110 km SSE of Amboseli, in June 1942. The most frequent sightings of this species in northeastern Tanzania used to be on the Mto wa Mbu flats between Makuyuni and Lake Manyara.

Rhinoptilus chalcopterus Violet-tipped Courser

The only localities in Tanzania from which I have records of this species were all in the eastern area. They include Kidodi, southern Kilosa District; in the central area of that district; in cultivations and miombo woodland round Morogoro, and on the Wami Plains to the north. Those records were all in July and August between 1931 and 1935. But I also have records from near Kilosa and at Kilingali in January and May 1952, and one from Kongwa in December 1947.

Rhinoptilus cinctus Heuglin's Courser

It is worth noting that the only record of this species I have for Tanzania was from the Serengeti in June 1962, an area which does not seem to fall within the range given by Britton (1980).

Glareola pratincola Common Pratincole

Flocks of this pratincole were very frequent for a short period on ploughed land at Kilingali in November 1951. In June 1952 flocks again appeared there after the long rains, and were again much in evidence on newly ploughed land.

Chlidonias hybridus Whiskered Tern

It is perhaps worth noting that the first active colony of this species in Tanzania was only found in January 1961, on the Eluanata Dam, Masailand (Fuggles-Couchman 1962). Up to that time searches at its best known haunt in northeastern Tanzania, Lake Babati, had proved fruitless, and the only record of breeding in Tanzania was of a young bird, able to fly, being fed by an adult at Dodoma (Thomas 1960).

Chlidonias leucopterus White-winged Black Tern

Although I have records of this species in northeastern Tanzania for every month except April and July, the largest flocks have been in May on the Ardai Plains, and in June and at the end of August at Lake Manyara. In May and June

the birds were in full breeding plumage, but the largest flock in August was composed mostly of birds in non-breeding dress. In the months September to March this species has been found in fair numbers at Lake Tlawi and Eluanata Dam in September; at Lake Babati in November and March, with one to five birds on the Ardai and at Meserani Dam in October and February.

Sterna caspia Caspian Tern

I can add two records of this species to the six mentioned by Britton (1980) for records south of Mida Creek (Kenya coast); both were near Dar es Salaam in October 1956.

Rynchops flavirostris African Skimmer

This was a common bird on the River Kilombero from Ifakara ferry westwards to about Kotkota in 1932 and again between 1952 and 1953. Two chicks were seen with an adult on 20 August 1953, when there were several parties of five to eight birds along the river. A single bird was seen at the Ifakara ferry at the end of May in 1952.

Pterocles decoratus Black-faced Sandgrouse

In my experience this species was in far smaller numbers in the general area rift valley - Kilimanjaro lowlands than the following two species. It occurred sparingly in the rift valley between Mto wa Mbu and Engaruka, but rarely on the Ardai Plains.

Pterocles gutturalis Yellow-throated Sandgrouse

This species occurred in small packs of three to 18 birds in the grasslands and cultivations at Kilingali in May 1952, well to the east of the general range given by Britton (1980) for Tanzania. Parties were first seen on 28 May, and up to 50 birds on 13 June. A male (52/5) shot at Kilingali on 17 June had barely enlarged gonads. The birds remained for about four weeks and then disappeared from the Kilingali area, only to return on 2 July when most were in pairs. Unfortunately I was unable to return to Kilingali to check on possible breeding in the area.

The Yellow-throat was by far the most numerous sandgrouse in the Northern Region, particularly in the area Ardai Plains - Meserani Dam in 1942 to 1947. Breeding was recorded as early as 7 July 1946 and very small chicks were seen with adults on 9 September 1943 on the Ardai Plains, near the wheatfields. Four eggs measured averaged 44.75 x 35.75 mm.

Aplopelia larvata Lemon Dove

Specific localities in Tanzania from which I have records of this dove include the Nguru Mountains at 1700 m in rain forest on the southern side in July 1961; the forests on the east and west slopes of Mt Kilimanjaro at 1850 to 1950 m in 1942 and 1946, and on Mt Hanang, in forests above Nangwa at 1900 m in February 1946. A male (42/71) collected on 26 December 1942 on Mt Kilimanjaro was in moult.

Columba arquatrix Olive Pigeon

In addition to Mts Kilimanjaro and Meru, the Crater Highlands and Mbulu Highlands, this species was frequent in and around the forest belt of Mt Hanang in February 1946, up to 2800 m. A nest found on 11 February 1946 contained one partially incubated egg which measured 38 x 31 mm.

Columba delegorguei Bronze-naped Pigeon

The general range given for this species by Britton (1980) would suggest that it does not occur in areas west and south of Arusha. In fact it has been recorded in the Mbulumbulu forest, Crater Highlands in 1943, and from the forest above Nangwa, Mt Hanang, at 2100 m in 1946. It was frequently heard in the wetter forest on the eastern side of that mountain.

Columba guinea Speckled Pigeon

In February 1945 large flocks of this species were feeding on arable on the Ardai Plains. The crop and stomach of one shot were full of somewhat cylindrical black seeds, thought to be those of *Commelina benghalensis*, which was a rampant weed in the area. Otherwise, except round the hotel at Dodoma where there were numerous resident birds, I found it in only very small numbers of one to six from localities as far apart as Kilosa in 1952, the Crater Highlands and Mbulumbulu in 1945, and round the western foothills of Mt Meru, in June, July and August in 1945 to 1955.

Streptopelia decipiens Mourning Dove

The range in Tanzania as described by Britton (1980) for this species suggests that it does not occur east of the rift valley in more northerly parts of the country. It was in fact well distributed through the low rainfall areas of the rift valley and Engaruka to the Ardai Plains, Meserani Dam and the lower country to the northeast of Mt Meru between 1942 and 1947. It was the commonest dove in the drier areas around Kilingali in 1951.

Streptopelia lugens Dusky Turtle Dove

The range of this species as given by Britton (1980) should more precisely be extended to include the Crater Highlands in Masailand, and north of Mbulu, where, in 1945, it was found in several localities including vestigial cedar forest at Nainokanoka; open grasslands at Olbalbal, north of Ngorongoro Crater; *Hagenia* trees at Ngamat, to the edge of the rift at Kavenjiro. A female collected at Kavenjiro on 3 February 1945 contained eggs in the oviduct. It also occurred in 1952 far to the south of Kilimanjaro, at Geiro, northern Kilosa, a few kilometres from the southern boundary of Masailand. At Geiro birds were seen flying down from the Ukaguru Mountains at 09:00 to feed on the fruits of numerous small bushes.

Streptopelia senegalensis Laughing Dove

In my experience in Tanzania this species is typically the dove of semi-arid areas with *Acacia tortilis* and *Commiphora* sp. None of my many records have come from any other type of country.

Agapornis fischeri Fischer's Lovebird

This species was found at Digo Digo, Sonjo, east of the Serengeti, in June 1959, thus somewhat extending the range given by Britton (1980). It was also numerous at Mangola Springs, a few kilometres southwest of Ngorongoro, in the Lake Eyasi depression, in January 1960.

Poicephalus cryptoxanthus Brown-headed Parrot

This parrot was recorded at Kongwa in December 1947, somewhat to the west of the range given by Britton (1980).

Poicephalus meyeri Brown Parrot

Localities from which I have records of the species to the east of the race *saturatus* include the *Combretum* bushlands of lower Mbulumbulu in May 1946, presumably that race, and east of the general range given by Britton (1980); in *Acacia tortilis* grassland 15 km east of Mt Hanang in February 1946, and at Kongwa, probably of the race *matschiei*, in December 1947.

Chrysococcyx cupreus Emerald Cuckoo

It is surprising that Britton (1980) does not specifically mention Mt Kilimanjaro among the localities listed for this species in Tanzania, where it was frequently heard calling during the period late June to December. It also occurred on Mt Hanang above Nangwa in February 1946, and in the Pugu Hills inland from Dar es Salaam in December 1953.

Clamator glandarius Great Spotted Cuckoo

Records from east and northeast Tanzania should be noted. A male (37/35) was collected at Msongozi, west Morogoro District, in October 1937 in *Brachystegia* woodland. Two were seen on the edge of Dodoma township in January 1954 and another was found on the Ardai Plains, in January 1959.

Clamator jacobinus Black and White Cuckoo

My records of this cuckoo include December 1942 and February 1945 in north-eastern Tanzania, in the Arusha and Engaruka rift valley areas; in March 1956 at the coast north of Dar es Salaam; in May 1956 near Musoma, western Tanzania, and a single bird was seen in the Serengeti National Park in June 1962.

Cuculus canorus Eurasian Cuckoo

In view of the scarcity of records of this species on southward passage in Tanzania, its presence at Mbulumbulu in November 1943 should be noted. A male (43/24) was collected in evergreen forest at 1850 m on 12 November, and two others were seen on 18 November in the same locality in open *Acacia* woodland at 1550 m. The stomach of the specimen was crammed with the remains of large hoary caterpillars 2½ to 5 cm long.

Cuculus clamosus Black Cuckoo

Britton (1980) was not able to trace any definite records in Tanzania west of 35°E. I have just one such record, a bird calling at Tarime, north Mara, on 19 May 1956, which is west of that line, if only by 60-odd kilometres.

My records of calling birds in and around Arusha have all been from December onwards, earlier than is suggested by Britton (1980) for northern Tanzania, and similar to dates from Tsavo and Arusha National Parks, quoted by him.

Cuculus gularis African Cuckoo

Records between 1933 and 1943 from Ulanga District at Mtimbira and from the Monduli area, Masailand, fall in the period November to April given by Britton (1980).

Centropus grillii Black Coucal

This species is certainly uncommon in Tanzania, but in addition to the localities given by Britton (1980) I have records from Kilingali in swampy grasslands in January 1952, where it was common. A female (52/1) collected then had a stomach filled almost entirely with small grasshoppers. It also occurred on the River Kilombero near Ifakara, in tall grass, at the time of the annual inundation of the valley in May 1957.

Britton also states that the Black Coucal disappears from the Serengeti after breeding in December to March. However, I have a record of one bird seen there in June 1962 and Schmidl (1982) lists a specimen for the same month. I also found it at Mto wa Mbu in April 1944.

Bubo africanus Spotted Eagle Owl [*Bubo capensis* Cape Eagle Owl]

Britton (1980) suggests that the Cape Eagle Owl may occur on Mt Hanang. During my survey of the birds of that mountain the only owl I encountered, other than the African Wood Owl *Ciccaba woodfordii*, was *Bubo africanus*, of which I obtained a female (46/28) on 7 February 1946. There is only a small area of moorland on Mt Hanang which held a very limited bird population and no owl was evident.

Ciccaba woodfordii African Wood Owl

The occurrence of this species at Mtii, South Pare Mountains, at 1400 m (male 42/15) on 18 June 1942 and on the southern slopes of Mt Hanang at 2300 m (male 46/52) on 13 February 1946 are worth noting. The first locality lies on the northeastern edge of the broad range given by Britton (1980), and that from Hanang adds definition to his range to the west.

Glaucidium perlatum Pearl-spotted Owlet

Among several records of this owlet scattered through northeastern and eastern Tanzania, one from 3100 m on the western side of Mt Meru, just above the forest, is worth noting for the altitude, which is well above that given by Britton (1980). Its characteristic call was heard at first light on a climb of the mountain.

Caprimulgus fraenatus Dusky Nightjar

A female (42/36) collected from several at Mbulumbulu on 1 October 1942 had somewhat enlarged ovaries. The characteristic call was heard at Litembo in the Matengo Hills of Songea in April 1957, providing a further record for this species from southeastern Tanzania. It was also found at Gitingo on the east side of Mt Hanang in February 1946.

In the light of the appearance of numbers of this species at Ngulia (Tsavo, Kenya) in November to January (Britton 1980) it is worth noting the occurrence of large numbers at Ngare Nairobi at dusk in September 1944 from which a female (44/10) was collected. The birds were flying on to a dirt road from the surrounding grassland.

Apus aequatorialis Mottled Swift

To the localities given by Britton (1980) for this species in Tanzania can be added Kongwa, at the northern foot of Kiboriani, where many were seen in company with Alpine Swifts *A. melba* in July 1956; the Ardai Plains, where they were numerous in August 1958, and at Songea in April 1957.

Apus apus Eurasian Swift

Among records scattered over northern and eastern Tanzania the most interesting are of a flock of 200 to 300 birds at Kilingali one evening in November 1951, some flying low cleaving between the trees, some high up, slowly drifting south; and a very large concentration, larger than the flock at Kilingali, which spent two days around Ilonga, Kilosa District, on 10 and 11 January 1953 after heavy rain. Eurasian Swifts were first noticed passing Ilonga in October 1952, but the earliest record I have from Tanzania is 10 September 1942 at Ngare Nairobi.

Apus melba Alpine Swift

In addition to those localities in Tanzania given by Britton (1980), this bird has been recorded also from Kisangiro, at the northwestern foot of the North Pare Mountains, at 500 m on 22 October 1952; at Kongwa, Central Region, from 4 May to 20 May 1949 and on 1 July 1956, and at Iguguncu, Singida District, on 5 September 1955. Kongwa lies at the northern foot of Kiboriani Mountain and the birds seen there in May and July suggest that the Alpine Swift may well have been breeding on the mountain.

Neafrapus boehmi Böhm's Spinetail

The range given in Britton (1980) for this species in Tanzania other than in the northeast, is imprecise in relation to the central area along the Central Railway. This spinetail occurred at Kongwa, where a 'considerable' number was seen circling over *Acacia tortilis/Adansonia* wood- and bushland at the northern foot of Mt Kiboriani in July 1949. Two birds were also seen at Malolo, in southwestern Kilosa District in July 1953, also in semi-arid country with baobabs. I believe that the presence of baobabs is important for breeding where this species occurs in semi-arid areas, as in an earlier record at Kongwa in 1947, a few birds constantly circled a large baobab and frequently disappeared into it.

Apaloderma vittatum Bar-tailed Trogon

While the following localities fall within the broad range given by Britton (1980), it is worth recording its presence in the forests above Mbulumbulu

at 1850 m in 1943 and at Kilomeni, North Pare Mountains, at 1550 m in 1942.

Ceryle maxima Giant Kingfisher

In addition to records of single birds from the Ngare Nairobi South River in forest at 1850 m in July 1945, from a small dam at Ngare Nairobi in December 1942, and from the Sanje River, Ulunga District in March 1933, the most interesting record was from the Tingida Swamp, Kilosa District, in March 1933 when three birds were seen along a small river running into the swamp.

Halcyon leucocephala Chestnut-bellied Kingfisher

Two localities where this species has been recorded in Tanzania would seem to lie outside the general range given by Britton (1980). They are at Engaruka on 3 February 1945 where it favoured fig trees along the stream, and at Monduli on 21 January 1943 in park-like grassland with a few scattered trees.

Halcyon senegalensis Woodland Kingfisher

In view of the lack of localities in northern and northeastern Tanzania mentioned by Britton (1980) it is worth recording the occurrence of this species at Mangola Springs in January 1960. I have no other records of this bird in northeastern Tanzania other than at Serengeti National Park in June 1962.

Ispidina picta Pygmy Kingfisher

In my experience, by no means a common bird in eastern and northeastern Tanzania. A male (31/6) was collected on the eastern slopes of the Uluguru Mountains in November 1931, above Kasanga at 1250 m. That was the only occasion on which I saw this species in Morogoro and Kilosa Districts. It occurred in March 1937 on the edge of the Pugu forest at Kisserawe, and I have a June record in 1942 from near the Ngare Nairobi North River in the western foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro.

Merops bullockoides White-fronted Bee-eater

The range given by Britton (1980) for Tanzania is imprecise and it is worth recording a breeding colony in the banks of the River Mbakana at Kissaki, southern Morogoro District on 16 September 1938, a locality which may or may not lie within the range indicated.

In northeastern Tanzania it has been recorded in February 1945 from the edge of the Crater Highlands at Kavenjiro at 1800 m, well to the west of Mt Meru, and it was seen in March 1946 at 2400 m in *Hagenia* forest on the western slopes of Mt Meru, an altitude well above the altitudinal range given by Britton. It was breeding in December 1959 near the Great North Road in the West Meru area at c. 1550 m.

Merops hirundineus Swallow-tailed Bee-eater

My records for this species contain three October dates, in 1934, 1935 and 1952, rather later than most records (Britton 1980) and that from Dar es Salaam rather earlier than that quoted by him. A pair was seen hawking on the open flats near the Ifakara ferry, River Kilombero; a pair was recorded at Sanje, Ulunga District, and several were seen in October near Mzenza, Dar es Salaam District, from which a male (35/46) with enlarged gonads was collected. I also have an August record, in 1938, from Turiani, northern Morogoro District.

Merops oreobates Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater

I have a record of this species 100 km south of the Crater Highlands (Britton 1980), from Dareda, near the rift wall in southeastern Mbulu District, at 1400 m on 22 February 1959. It was a young bird which might well have been bred in the area.

Phoeniculus minor Abyssinian Scimitarbill

Britton (1980) makes no specific mention of this species' range in northeast

Tanzania where it was widely distributed in 1942 to 1959 in *Acacia tortilis* and *A. drepanolobium* scattered tree and bushland in lower rainfall areas, ranging from Katesh at the southern foot of Mt Hanang, Mbulu District, to Makuyuni and Monduli, to the lowlands north of Mt Meru and between Mts Meru and Kilimanjaro, to Gonja, between the South Pare Mountains and the West Usambara Mountains.

Smithornis capensis African Broadbill

There are records of, presumably, the race *albigularis* (Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott 1946) well to the east of the Bahi area of Dodoma District, which appear to have been overlooked by Britton (1980). This species was found from Kibaya, southern Masailand, in dense thicket and riverine bush to the Mpwapwa border, 50 km to the southeast in 1944.

Mirafraga albicauda White-tailed Bush Lark

Britton (1980) states that this species is sparingly distributed in northern Tanzania and mentions only the Serengeti and Arusha National Parks. Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott (1946) found it a common bird in the short grass plains between Arusha and the western rift wall, particularly on the Ardaï Plains and at Engaruka in the rift valley.

Mirafraga cantillans Singing Bush Lark

The range of this species extends well to the west of Arusha, as far as Engaruka (Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott 1946). These authors also recorded a male with partially enlarged gonads from the Sanya Plains between Mt Kilimanjaro and Mt Meru, in December 1942. This date is of interest in view of the period March to August given by Britton for the occurrence of this species in northern Tanzania.

Delichon urbica House Martin

An overwintering locality not specifically mentioned by Britton (1980) is Mt Hanang, where 20 birds were seen between 11 and 13 February 1945. They were in company with other hirundines and were seen over grassland at 1950 m and round Werther Peak at 3200 m (Fuggles-Couchman 1953).

Hirundo daurica Red-rumped Swallow

The range of this species (Britton 1980) should be extended further south to include Mahenge, 1100 m, from where I have a record on 27 May 1952.

Hirundo griseopyga Grey-rumped Swallow

Britton (1980) overlooks published records of this species in northeastern Tanzania, where it was a regular visitor to the Ardaï Plains between early May and the middle of October (Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott 1946). It has also been recorded from the River Kilombero where up to 200 birds were seen on 6 November 1932; from the northwestern slopes of Mt Kilimanjaro in July 1943; scattered over the Engamat - Olmoti Crater area of the Crater Highlands in January 1945; from the lower slopes of Mt Hanang where two birds were seen in February 1946, and from Kilingali where up to 100 were present in April and May 1952.

Parus albiventris White-bellied Tit

The range given for this species in Tanzania by Britton (1980) should be extended from Dodoma well to the east to include southern Masailand (Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott 1946) and northern Kilosa District at Idibo, 1280 m. A breeding male was collected by H.F.I. Elliott in November at Kijunguu, not far from the western border of Handeni District, and I collected another male (32/16) at the same place in August 1932.

Cercomela sordida Alpine Chat

Britton (1980) considers that the reported occurrence of this species on Mt

Meru requires confirmation. I was familiar with this chat in the Crater Highlands and saw several on the upper eastern slopes of Mt Meru in January 1960 when on the approach to the secondary cone in the crater, which three of us climbed. The chats were seen at c. 2500 m in short grass and shrubby areas.

Cisticola cinereola Ashy Cisticola

The range of this species extends beyond the Arusha/Longido area (Britton 1980) to Engaruka in the rift valley to the west, and to Kileo, 770 m, at the northern foot of the North Pare Mountains, to the east (Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott 1946).

Macronyx ameliae Rosy-breasted Longclaw

Britton (1980) mentions records of this species from northern Tanzania. It was recorded by Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott (1946) from the western and northwestern slopes of Mt Kilimanjaro. In the Arusha area on the Ardai Plains it was sympatric with the Pangani Longclaw *M. aurantiigula* and occurred there in identical habitats.

Creatophora cinerea Wattled Starling

To the few breeding records for Tanzania mentioned in Britton (1980) should be added those from just west of Longido (Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott 1946), and in the Engaruka plains scattered over wide areas. Nests were found in May.

Euplectes afer Yellow-crowned Bishop

This species has been recorded breeding in eastern Tanzania, well to the east of Dodoma, the most easterly point of the range of the race *ladoensis* given by Britton (1980) for the central area of the country. In January 1952 it was numerous at Kilingali, Kilosa District, in the tall grasses fringing a long irrigation furrow, and in seasonal swampland where it was breeding. It also bred at Eluanata Dam near Monduli, in the north, in January 1962. Nests were about 120 cm above the water, in clumps of a tall *Panicum* grass.

REFERENCES

- ELLIOTT, H.F.I. & FUGGLES-COUCHMAN, N.R. 1948. An ecological survey of the birds of the Crater Highlands and rift lakes, northern Tanganyika Territory. *Ibis* 90: 394-425.
- FUGGLES-COUCHMAN, N.R. 1953. The ornithology of Mt. Hanang, in northern-central Tanganyika Territory. *Ibis* 95: 468-482.
- _____ 1962. Nesting of Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida sclateri* in Tanganyika. *Ibis* 104: 563-564.
- _____ & ELLIOTT, H.F.I. 1946. Some records and field notes from north-eastern Tanganyika Territory. *Ibis* 88: 327-347.
- SCHMIDL, D. 1982. *The birds of the Serengeti National Park Tanzania*. London: British Ornithologists' Union.
- THOMAS, D.K. 1960. Birds - notes on breeding: 1958-59. *Tanganyika Notes and Records* 55: 225-243.
- N.R. Fuggles-Couchman, Post House, High Street, Broughton, Stockbridge, Hants SO20 8AA, England

(Received 10 July 1983)

APPENDIX: GAZETTEER

The following localities in Tanzania were not included in the Gazetteer in Britton (1980).

Locality	°/'S	°/'E	Locality	°/'S	°/'E
Basuto, Lake	4 36	35 05	Lyamungu	3 10	37 15
Boma la Ngombe	3 20	37 10	Malinyi	8 55	36 01
Burko, Mt	3 17	36 12	Malolo	7 20	36 36
Dareda	4 29	35 39	Mangola Springs	c. 3 25	35 26
Geiro	6 09	36 53	Matale	6 14	37 22
Gombo, Lake	6 43	36 50	Meserani Dam	3 30	36 24
Gonja	4 19	38 03	Mikumi	7 24	37 00
Hombolo Dam	5 51	35 54	Miwalleni Springs	c. 3 30	37 30
Idibo	6 04	37 11	Mjimwema	6 50	39 20
Ifakara	8 01	36 40	Msongozi	7 04	37 23
Ilonga	6 47	37 02	Mto wa Mbu	3 23	35 51
Katesh	4 33	34 56	Mzenga	7 00	38 47
Kibedya	6 08	36 55	Nainokanoka	3 04	35 40
Kigodi	7 36	37 01	Ngulu	4 03	37 52
Kijunguu	5 21	37 11	Nondwa	6 25	35 19
Kileo	3 29	37 37	Ol Molog	3 00	37 08
Kilingali	6 57	37 06	Rongai	3 05	37 36
Kilomeni	3 46	37 40	Sanje River	7 42	36 59
Kilosa	6 46	37 00	Sanya Plains	3 17	37 03
Kisangiro	3 37	37 34	Saranda	5 42	35 00
Kissaki	7 27	37 46	Sonjo	2 17	35 41
Kongwa	6 12	36 26	Tindiga Swamp	6 52	37 14
Kota Kota	8 42	36 08	Tlawi, Lake	3 46	35 34
Lengopiron	2 54	35 56	Turiani	6 11	37 35
Lenjogi, Mt	5 52	36 48	Wami Plains	6 25	37 34